

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A seal for use in a high temperature fuel cell comprising:
  - ceramic fibres providing a matrix for retaining ceramic powder, and being capable of remaining flexible at operating temperatures of the fuel cell;
  - ceramic powder being disposed within the matrix, a substantial proportion of the ceramic powder having a particle size of about 5  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter;
  - the ceramic fibres and powder being capable of resisting sintering at operating temperatures of the fuel cell, wherein the fibres and powder provide direct ceramic-to-ceramic contact, and wherein the seal is substantially free of binder and has a fired porosity between about 35% to about 60%.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 1 wherein the ceramic fibres and ceramic powder may be the same material or different and may comprise alumina or zirconia.
4. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 3 wherein the seal has a pre-fired porosity of less than about 45%.
5. (Original) The seal of claim 4 wherein the seal has a pre-fired porosity of less than about 40%.
6. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 5 wherein the seal has a pre-fired porosity of about 35%.

7. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 1 or claims 3 to 6 which is formed by a tape casting process.
8. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 7 which has a fired porosity of less than about 50% and greater than about 35%.
9. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 8 which has a fired porosity of less than about 45% and greater than about 35%.
10. (Previously presented) The seal of claim 9 which has a fired porosity of less than about 40% and greater than about 35%.
11. (New) The seal of claim 1 wherein the ceramic fibres are formed of uncoated material.